



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
September 2003



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MontCAS, Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests: Important Dates, Spring 2004

January 26	2004/2005 Test Coordinator Manual Online
Week of February 9	Districts receive trailer packages
Week of February 23	Districts receive testing materials
March 8-26	Testing Window
April 5	Deadline for districts to return materials to Riverside

Reminder: Individual Performance Profiles Sent to Schools in June 2003

The Office of Public Instruction purchased a new test result report, the individual performance profile, for grades 4, 8, and 11. These reports were mailed to districts in June.

The Individual Performance Profile is particularly useful in planning instruction for individual students. This report gives specific information on strengths and weaknesses within the subject areas so classroom planning and instruction can address them. This report can be viewed and used by teachers and then stored in the cumulative records.

Office of Public Instruction Presents Updates at Fall Meetings

- **MEA-MFT**
 - **Assessment and Adequate Yearly Progress**
Thursday, October 16
°Billings Skyview High School
°Room 145
°Presented Twice
°8:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. AND
°10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
 - **No Child Left Behind**
Thursday, October 16
°Billings Skyview High School
°Room 145
°2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.
 - **Five-Year Comprehensive Plan**
Thursday, October 16
°Billings Skyview High School
°Theater
°4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.
- **MCEL**
 - **Assessment and Adequate Yearly Progress**
Friday, October 17
°Bozeman Holiday Inn
°Montana Room
°8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Iowa Test Results Analysis Online

Detailed information about the 2003 Iowa Test Results is available online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/nrt.html> in pdf format. An introductory overview that was presented at the September Board of Public Education meeting, background information, and analysis by subject and by grade are included. Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 were tested in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

MontCAS, Phase 2—The Criterion-Reference Test

MontCAS, Phase 2, the Criterion-Reference Test: Important Dates, Spring 2004

March 25	Districts begin receiving testing materials *
March 26-April 16	Testing Window
April 22	Deadline for returning materials to Measured Progress

***PLEASE NOTE:** The testing window for the criterion-reference test was originally set for April 5 - April 16, 2004. The Office of Public Instruction had two choices for the test window: concurrent with the Iowa tests in March or the two week window in April. The Office of Public Instruction placed a survey online for districts, and the consensus was the April window. Recent requests to extend that window led to discussions with Measured Progress. Those discussions resulted in the window being extended to three weeks. To do this, Measured Progress needed to renegotiate printing and shipping arrangements. For these reasons, districts will receive the testing materials close to the first day of the testing window.

Preparing for the Criterion-Reference Test

The criterion-reference test developed by Measured Progress, Inc., the Montana Office of Public Instruction, and Montana educators will be administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in reading and math March 29 - April 16, 2004. The test will consist of multiple choice and constructed response items.

- Since the test is aligned to Montana's content standards, continued quality teaching to the standards

is the best preparation. In addition, Measured Progress will provide sample items, blueprints, and rubrics. These will be available online by November.

- To see samples from a similar test before November, the Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WYCAS) has sample and released items on its Web site.
 - Sample Items: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/wycas/TestResults/TestResults.htm>
 - Released Items: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/wycas/TestResults/TestResults.htm>
- The Montana criterion-referenced test has two sources. Progress Towards Standards (PTS), an off-the-shelf test developed by Measured Progress, and Montana augmented items developed by Montana educators. In November 2003, frameworks, samples and rubrics for the Montana test will be available. Currently, frameworks for the PTS and correlation charts between PTS standards and Montana standards are online.
 - Reading Framework (grades 3 - high school)—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/PTSReading.pdf>
 - Math Frameworks (one for each grade, 3-8 and 10)—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/crt.html#MPTS>
 - Correlation Chart Reading—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/ReadingCorrelation.pdf>
 - Correlation Chart Math—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/crt.html#MCOR>
- On **November 21, 2003**, the Office of Public Instruction will present a statewide video conference to assist schools in preparing for the test. The October **JUMP** will have more information on the videoconference.

MontCAS, Phase 2 (cont.)

Measured Progress Professional Development Workshops Scheduled for October

“Examining Student Work,” a workshop developed by Measured Progress, the testing contractor for the Montana criterion-reference test (CRT) is being offered during the week of October 6, 2003, at five sites from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Space is still available at some sites. More information and registration are available online <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org> or contact Nancy Hall at Measured Progress, 1 (888) 792-2741.

Date	Site	Location
October 7	Missoula	Holiday Inn
October 7	Billings	Sheraton Hotel
October 8	Bozeman	Holiday Inn
October 9	Glasgow	Cottonwood Inn
October 9	Great Falls	Best Western Hotel

“Teacher as Assessor” and “Examining Student Work” Video Tapes

In December, video tapes of workshops developed and presented by Measured Progress (“Teacher as Assessor,” spring 2003, and “Examining Student Work,” October 2003) will be available for check out through the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center. Please contact Raelen Williard to make arrangements: rwilliard@state.mt.us or (406) 444-2082.

Reminder

The Assessment Calendar and an Assessment Update PowerPoint presentation are online:

- Calendar: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/calendar.pdf>
- PowerPoint: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/03AssessOverview.pdf> are online

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